

"PERFINS"

CHRONICLE OF THE PERFINS CLUB

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HOW I COLLECT PERFINS

Keith Misegades

I have not yet mounted my collection for exhibition; I have 3 boxes made for holding No. 10 size envelopes with alphabetical card dividers. Data such as is contained in the catalog is indexed on heavy white paper approximately the same size as a No. 10 envelope; date is on 3 lines at the upper right, first line the perfins classification, second line company and third, the city of use, if unique, otherwise the main office. Strips and fronts of covers are filed

behind the "cards." If there are not over 100 perfins off cover, they go in a 2½x3½ glassine envelope that is hung over the top of the card by the flap of the envelope. Larger quantities are put in a window front No. 10 envelope that is substituted for the card. Foreign stamps have not been worked up definitely yet but are kept one country to an envelope and the envelopes in alphabetical order. Revenues have an envelope too. I am still getting large amounts of new stuff which I break down in lots of about 1,000—an evening's work. This is sorted out on a dark wood table that shows up the design well; foreign are thrown out as they show up, also unreadable—saved for later cogitation. The rest are arranged on the table in rows alphabetically; each new design falls in line, no attention being paid to 2nd and subsequent letters. When the pile is gone, I take up each row and arrange the small piles in strict alphabetical order; because "&" and numerals have a place in dimensioning, I index those in order behind the letters, thus: B&B follows BZB and C8 follows C&A. Then I take my index file and put the piles away. If I find a new item, I leave it out and tuck it into an empty glassine envelope. These are all ready in alphabetical order and are taken with me on the commuting train with some blank cards, a millimeter scale and an envelope. I do these en route and put them away in the envelope. At the first opportunity these are put away quite easily as they are all ready in order. When a new catalog page comes, I go through that section of my file and add any new information to the cards. I also pick out the items not found in the catalog and list them for Travell to work on. When I do mount, I expect to have corner card, used item on piece and stamp face down or photographic print of design or as many of these as I can get. Last of all, the "WHY" was as a stunt sideline to a U. S. collection that was getting too expensive to permit much activity.